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Germany

Livestock and Products

BSE in Germany - Update

2002

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Report Highlights:

Number of confirmed BSE cases since November 2000 total 182 as of June 03,2002.

Consumption of beef is gradually recovering, but has not yet reached pre BSE levels.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1], GM

Since the last report (GM1033, 11/27/01) the number of confirmed BSE-cases in Germany has risen from 124 to currently 182. Out of these, 7 cases were detected in 2000, 125 cases in 2001 and 50 cases in 2002.

The geographical distribution of the confirmed cases is shown in the following table:

State	Number of confirmed BSE cases				Number of cattle in that state	cases per 1 million head
	2000	2001	2002	total		
Bavaria	5	59	15	79	4084839	19
Lower-Saxony	1	17	14	32	2829052	11
Schleswig-Holstein	1	12	7	20	1318059	15
Baden-Wuerttemberg	-	12	3	15	1200613	12
Saxony	-	4	4	8	546944	15
Rhineland-Palatinate	-	4	4	8	440737	18
Saxony-Anhalt	-	4	1	5	390847	13
Brandenburg	-	3	1	4	645900	6
Hesse	-	3	-	3	534157	6
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	-	2	1	3	591391	5
North Rhine-Westphalia	-	2	-	2	1482373	1
Thuringia	-	2	-	2	387946	5
Saarland	-	1	-	1	61078	16
Berlin, Bremen , Hamburg	-	-	-	-	21854	
Total	7	125	50	182	14535790	13

(Sources: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture; Federal Office of Statistics, Wiesbaden)

From January through April 2002 a total of 1,098,342 BSE tests were conducted and 45 cases of BSE were confirmed. Out of these, only 15 cases were discovered through routine testing at slaughter, 24 cases were detected through mandatory testing of perished or put-down animals, one case was an animal which had shown clinical symptoms and only 2 cases were detected in destroyed herds or cohorts of a previously confirmed BSE-case (birth cohort = animals born on the same farm within 12 month before or after the birth, feeding cohort = animals that were raised together with animal with confirmed BSE within the first 12 months of life of the latter, all offspring).

January - April 2002	Number of tests	confirmed BSE	cases per tests in that group	percent cases of all confirmed cases
perished animals	92,123	22	0.024	48.9
put-down animals	2,981	2	0.067	4.4
animals showing clinical symptoms	36	1	2.778	2.2
animals appearing healthy at slaughter	1,001,863	15	0.001	33.3
animals put down in an BSE eradication measure	1,591	2	0.126	4.4
suspicious animals to be confirmed by a lab	64	3	4.688	6.7
Total	1,098,658	45	0.004	100

For calendar year 2001 the figures were as follows:

January - December 2001	Number of tests	confirmed BSE	cases per tests in that group	percent cases of all confirmed cases
perished animals	258,353	53	0.021	42.4
put-down animals	8,246	12	0.146	9.6
animals showing clinical symptoms	187	6	3.209	4.8
animals appearing healthy at slaughter	2,593,260	38	0.001	30.4
animals put down in an BSE eradication measure	8,952	4	0.045	3.2
suspicious animals to be confirmed by a lab	178	12	6.742	9.6
Total	2,869,176	125	0.004	100

Source: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture

Since January 25, 2001, BSE tests at slaughter are mandatory in Germany for all cattle above the age of 24 months (the EU requires testing at above 30 months, only put-down cattle have to be tested at the age of above 24 months).

Risk Management by the German Government

For a detailed outline of the German risk management system please refer to report GM1033.

Impacts on consumption

During the first months after the detection of BSE in Germany, the private consumption of beef dropped by as much as 70 percent. In the first six months of 2001, beef consumption was reduced by 45 percent compared to the same time in 2001. Because of short consumer memory and/or action taken by the GOG to restore consumer trust in beef, in the course of the year consumption partially recovered. For calendar year 2001 in total, beef consumption by private households was down 24.8 pct compared to CY 2000 and 32.9 pct compared to CY 1999. Statistics show that consumption was only partly shifted to poultry, which gained 1.3 pct compared to CY 2000 and 3.7 pct compared to CY 1999. Many consumers instead reduced their overall meat consumption. In CY 2001, total meat consumption of private households dropped by 7.8 pct compared to CY 2000 and by 11.5 pct compared to CY1999.

In the first quarter of 2002, the recovery of meat and beef consumption continued, but has not yet reached pre BSE levels. Compared to the first quarter of CY 2001, 68.8 pct more beef and 100.4 pct more veal was consumed, but compared to the same period in CY 2000 consumption is still 13.5 pct lower for beef and 20.1 pct lower for veal.